United Nations S/2018/378

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 19 April 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2407 (2018), by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1874 (2009), as specified in paragraph 26 of that resolution, until 24 April 2019 and requested me to take the necessary administrative measures to that effect.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), I have appointed the following experts:

Olaf Andrieu (France), missile issues and other technologies
Hugh Griffiths (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), air transport
Dmitry Kiku (Russian Federation), customs and export controls
Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt (United States of America), finance and economics
Maiko Takeuchi (Japan), nuclear issues
Jong Kwon Youn (Republic of Korea), non-proliferation, procurement and trade
Jiahu Zong (China), other weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms

I have reappointed Neil Watts (South Africa), maritime transport, to serve on the Panel until 9 July 2018, when he will reach the maximum period of service under the applicable rules and regulations of the United Nations.

I have designated Hugh Griffiths to serve as Coordinator of the Panel.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-06439 (E) 250418

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United Nations S/2018/379

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 20 April 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), which was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1990 (2011), and to resolution 2411 (2018) concerning the extension, until 23 April 2018, of the modification of the mandate of UNISFA, as set forth in resolutions 2024 (2011) and 2075 (2012).

In his letter dated 11 April 2018 (see annex), the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, had expressed his support for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism in relation to paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 2386 (2017). He also requested that his letter be circulated to the Security Council for information and action, as appropriate.

I should therefore be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-06433 (E) 260418

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Annex

I am writing to you with respect to the efforts deployed by the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. Since its operationalization in 2013, the Mechanism has made remarkable achievements in providing support to the Sudan and South Sudan in the monitoring of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. In this context, I should like to express appreciation to the Security Council for the unwavering support provided thus far by the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), which has created an enabling environment for the Mechanism to implement its mandate.

I should like to refer to paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 2386 (2017) on the mandate of UNISFA, in which it was determined that support to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism would be discontinued unless both parties adhered to specific measures by no later than 15 March 2018. We duly noted the specific requests made by the Council, namely:

(a) Facilitating the full freedom of movement for UNISFA air and ground patrols, to include landing within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, by approving 100 per cent of requested sorties no later than 72 hours after the requests are delivered;

(b) Opening of phase I of the border crossing corridors;

(c) Holding at least one meeting to resume border demarcation discussions, including negotiations on the disputed areas within the framework of the signed agreements;

(d) Reactivating the Technical Ad Hoc Border Committee of the 14-Mile Area;

(e) Facilitating the operationalization of the four Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism team sites;

(f) Convening at least two meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism to resolve these issues.

In pursuance of these provisions, the African Union, most notably through its High-level Implementation Panel, exerted sustained efforts to help to overcome the challenges at hand and to meet the requirements outlined by the Security Council. At the African Union, we strongly believe that significant and tangible progress has been made to meet these requirements. I am pleased to note the recommendation contained in your recent report on UNISFA (S/2018/293) calling upon the Security Council to recognize the efforts and the important steps taken by the Sudan and South Sudan on their border and thus to continue to support the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

As I outlined in my letter of 23 October 2017, any discontinuation of the support extended to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism would risk reversing this progress and triggering tension in an already volatile environment. This, in turn, may worsen the humanitarian situation, including in the Abyei Area, which has become a zone of transit and refuge for those fleeing violence in South Sudan.

Since the adoption of resolution 2386 (2017), the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism has made significant progress. Two extraordinary sessions of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism were convened by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel in Addis Ababa, on 4 February and 5 March 2018. The next is scheduled for April 2018. On 27 February, the seventh meeting of the Joint Security Committee, which comprises the Chiefs of Military Intelligence of the Sudan and South Sudan, was held in Juba.

These meetings focused on such issues as the redeployment of forces outside the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, the operationalization of the team sites, border crossing points, the marking of the centreline of the Zone, the activation of the Technical Ad Hoc Border Committee of the 14-Mile Area and reports of the presence of unknown forces in nine locations north of the Zone. The Joint Security Committee recognized that progress had been made in relation to the withdrawal of forces from the Zone. It called for the establishment of a joint committee, with the participation of the African Union Border Programme Technical Team, to work with UNISFA in verifying the redeployment of the two armies from the Zone within 15 days, and recommended that the Joint Political and Security Mechanism expedite the process of determining the exact coordinates of the border crossing points with the Technical Team.

I should like to highlight the following steps taken over the past months:

(a) In order to facilitate full freedom of movement for UNISFA air and ground patrols, both parties decided to grant standing clearance for all ground monitoring and verification patrols, as well as helicopter landings, within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone;

(b) The border crossings to be opened in phase I were identified at a meeting convened by the Joint Border Technical Crossings Committee, comprising technical experts from both sides, held in Khartoum on 20 February 2018 and attended by the African Union Border Programme Technical Team. Thus far, the Technical Team has completed the first phase of the marking exercise by marking 3 of the 10 crossing points along the corridors of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, in line with the directives issued by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism. The main objective of the marking exercise is to make a conclusive technical decision about the location of the Zone centreline on the ground, in order to enable the parties to withdraw their forces within the Zone and to facilitate the free movement of people and formal trade between the two countries. The early completion of this exercise will also help to address misunderstandings related to the location of certain team sites;

(c) The Joint Border Commission met in November 2017 for the first time since September 2016, while the Joint Demarcation Committee met in December 2017;

(d) The first meeting of the Technical Ad Hoc Border Committee of the 14-Mile Area, facilitated by UNISFA, was held on 27 February in Gok Machar. Representatives of the two parties, along with UNISFA members, attended the meeting, at which they developed the draft terms of reference of the Committee that were endorsed by the Joint Political and Security Mechanism on 5 March;

(e) Two of the four team sites have been established. However, progress in this respect has been limited owing to disagreements among local communities regarding the location of the proposed team sites and difficulty of access. In view of this, the Joint Security Committee met in Khartoum on 31 March and, inter alia, renewed the commitment of the two countries to facilitate the establishment of team sites and recommended that the Joint Political and Security Mechanism expedite the markings of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone centreline.

I should like to add that the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee and the traditional leaders of the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya also met in Addis Ababa in November 2017. The traditional leaders agreed to strengthen efforts to promote intercommunal dialogue. Plans are ongoing to convene their next meeting in the Abyei Area in May 2018. The convening of the meeting in Abyei bears testimony to the stability achieved

through the efforts of UNISFA and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

I wish to commend the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan for the commitment and political will that they have demonstrated by extending the necessary cooperation to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism in particular and to UNISFA in general. The positive environment promoted by these two institutions has encouraged the two parties to engage more constructively in the implementation of the various agreements that they have signed, including the security matrix of 8 March 2013, with specific timelines for each action.

Indeed, the coordinated efforts of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and UNISFA have significantly contributed towards our shared vision of the Sudan and South Sudan living side by side in peace and good neighbourliness. At the same time, it is clear that the realization of this vision cannot be complete without the full delimitation and demarcation of the common border between the two countries. In this respect, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the international community at large need to remain engaged to ensure that this vision becomes reality.

The African Union Peace and Security Council and the Commission, through the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, remain seized of the situation between the two countries. The Security Council will be kept regularly informed of our efforts.

I am therefore convinced that the Security Council will see the imperative not only of extending the mandate of UNISFA, which expires on 15 May 2018, but also of maintaining support to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

While we all recognize that a peacekeeping mission can ultimately succeed only if there is a viable political process, we should also keep in mind, as I stated on 28 March 2018 during the Security Council debate, that the mere presence of such a force has, in itself, a stabilizing effect. UNISFA and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism are cases in point. It would be a tragedy if the remarkable gains made were to be jeopardized by a hasty decision regarding the Mechanism.

As unfortunate as this reality is, political processes hardly lend themselves to rapid resolution. They require sustained efforts to overcome mistrust, help parties in conflict to gain the support of their respective constituencies for the compromises that are required and, ultimately, to achieve lasting solutions to their disputes. This is the exercise in which the African Union has been engaged over the past years. Needless to say, without the presence of UNISFA and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, the advances made would not have been possible.

It is our earnest hope that the Security Council will heed the call made by the African Union.

I should like once again to put on record the appreciation of the African Union for your outstanding commitment to an ever-closer partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, as well as for your untiring efforts to promote lasting peace, security and development on the continent.

I should be most grateful if you would urgently circulate the present letter to the members of the Security Council for their information and action, as appropriate.

(*Signed*) Moussa Faki **Mahamat**

United Nations S/2018/380

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2018

Original: English

United States: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and its presidential statements on the situation in Sudan and South Sudan, and in particular, resolutions 1990 (2011), 2024 (2011), 2032 (2011), 2046 (2012), 2047 (2012), 2075 (2012), 2104 (2013), 2126 (2013), 2156 (2014), 2179 (2014), 2205 (2015), 2230 (2015), 2251 (2015), 2287 (2016), 2318 (2016), 2352 (2017), and 2386 (2017) as well as presidential statements S/PRST/2012/19 and S/PRST/2013/14, and the Council's press statements of 18 June 2012, 21 September 2012, 28 September 2012, 6 May 2013, 14 June 2013, 14 February 2014, 17 March 2014, 11 December 2014, and 27 November 2015,

Welcoming the progress made towards the implementation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), as well as the positive momentum it has generated between the parties, while *noting* that measures set out in paragraph 9 of resolution 2386 (2017) have not yet been fully and completely achieved, and *calling* on the parties to fulfil these measures without delay,

Stressing the need for the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to fully implement the JBVMM, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2046 (2012) and the African Union Peace and Security Council Roadmap of 24 April 2012 and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) Communique of 31 October 2017,

Commending the continued assistance provided to the parties by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA),

Taking note of the 3 April 2018 Secretary-General's report (S/2018/293),

Recognizing that the current situation in Abyei and along the border between the Sudan and South Sudan continues to constitute a serious threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend until 15 October 2018 UNISFA's mandate modification set forth in resolution 2024 (2011) and paragraph 1 of resolution 2075 (2012), and *further decides* that this shall be the final such extension unless the parties take the specific measures described in paragraph 3;

2. *Decides* to maintain UNISFA's authorized troop ceiling of 4,791 until 15 October 2018, and further decides that as of 15 October 2018, the authorized troop ceiling shall decrease to 4,250, unless it decides to extend the mandate modification set forth in resolution 2024 (2011) and paragraph 1 of resolution 2075 (2012), in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3;

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3. *Determines* that both parties should also demonstrate measurable progress on border demarcation, specifically:

(1) Maintain standing clearance for all UNISFA air and ground patrols, including landing within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), and maintain approval for 100 percent of requested sorties no later than 72 hours after the requests are delivered, in order to facilitate full freedom of movement for UNISFA and the JBVMM,

(2) Finalize agreement of the four JBVMM team sites, and holding a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the 14 mile area, to agree to the location of the team site near Safaha/Kiir Adem,

(3) Convene at least two meetings of the JPSM and for both parties to withdraw from the SDBZ,

(4) Make further progress to establish Phase 1 border crossing corridors between Sudan and South Sudan, including finalizing the opening of the Kosti-El Renk corridor,

(5) Open two additional corridors from among the ten identified crossings in the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) in line with the directives of AUHIP and JPSM, and finalize a plan for the opening of the remaining border crossings,

(6) Hold at least two meetings of the Joint Border Commission and Joint Demarcation Committee, finalize the Joint Demarcation Committee's report to the Joint Border Commission, discuss border demarcation of the agreed sections of the boundary per the 5 March JPSM decision, and resume border demarcation discussions including negotiations on the disputed areas within the framework of the signed agreements,

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform it of progress in implementing any steps taken per paragraph 3 as well as paragraph 9 of resolution 2386 (2017) no later than 15 September 2018;

5. *Decides* to remain actively seized of this matter.

United Nations S/2018/381

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 March 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that on 23 March 2018 he received credentials signed by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, stating that Ms. Karen Pierce has been appointed representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, those credentials are in order.

18-06782 (E) 300418

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United Nations S/2018/382

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 April 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 20 to 23 April 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-06800 (E) 010518 020518

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Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (20 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: four in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Hama Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations in Qumhanah, Hama Governorate, and Mazlum, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate. Food weighing 3.8 tons was delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,789 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,527.46 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 141 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 78,166 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,508.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (21 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: three in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and two in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Dar'a Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,789 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,527.46 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 60 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 78,226 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,508.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (22 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported two incidents of gunfire in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Hama Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Aqrabah, Aleppo Governorate. Cargo weighting a total of 1.9 tons was delivered.

In total, 1,790 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,529.36 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 79 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 78,305 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,508.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (23 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Aleppo, three in Ladhiqiyah and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Hama Governorate and one in Homs Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations: one in Khusham, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, and one in Umm al-Amad al-Qibliyah, Aleppo Governorate. Food and essential items weighing 3.8 tons were delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,792 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,533.16 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 127 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 78,432 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,508.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/383

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2018

Original: English

Note verbale dated 19 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council on the occasion of transmitting a copy of a communiqué issued by the Coordinating Bureau on 19 April 2018 in relation to the validity of the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations (see annex).

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations respectfully requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

18-06452 (E) 260418

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Annex to the note verbale dated 19 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the validity of the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations

1. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, true to its commitment to enhancing its role as an anti-war and peace-loving force, expresses its strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures that undermine the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and reiterates its commitment to promoting, preserving and strengthening multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process through the United Nations, by strictly adhering to its Charter and international law.

2. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, in this regard, reiterates the basic principle of the Charter of the United Nations that all States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. It stresses that the Charter contains sufficient provisions regarding the use of force to maintain and preserve international peace and security, and that achieving this goal by the Security Council should be strictly done in full conformity with the relevant Charter provisions.

3. The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with Article 2 and Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970.

New York, 19 April 2018

United Nations S/2018/384

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that the Iranian-backed Houthi militias in Yemen are currently detaining 19 ships loaded with more than 200 tons of oil derivatives in the Houthi-controlled anchoring zone outside Hudaydah port (see annex). Some of these ships have been detained by the Houthis for more than 26 days and have been prohibited from entering Hudaydah port, despite the absence of any other ships in the port. The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen is in constant communication with the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism to issue clearances for humanitarian and commercial shipments, including for the 19 aforementioned ships, in order to facilitate their arrival at Yemeni ports. As such, the Coalition condemns in the strongest terms the Houthis' continued obstruction of humanitarian aid to Yemen.

In this regard, the Isnad Centre for the Implementation of the Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations Plan has contacted both the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Riyadh and the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism offices in Djibouti to express the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's grave concern regarding this latest Houthi obstruction of humanitarian aid. Such obstruction will certainly contribute to expanding the black market for oil products in Houthi-controlled territories, thus filling the Houthi militias' war chest to fund their illegitimate war efforts and further prolonging and exacerbating the humanitarian situation in Yemen. Such black market activity will also serve to fund the illicit transfer of weapons technologies to the Houthis, such as the indiscriminate ballistic missile attacks by Houthi terrorists on densely populated civilian areas in Saudi Arabia, in violation of the arms embargo established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and international law. The Kingdom also expresses its grave concern regarding the potential environmental catastrophe that might ensue should the lawless Houthis opt to destroy the aforementioned detained ships, leading to an environmental catastrophe and a security crisis in the Red Sea.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the Security Council to condemn in the strongest terms this latest instance of Houthi obstruction of humanitarian aid. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the United Nations to relaunch its previously discussed initiative for increasing commercial and humanitarian shipments through Red Sea ports, including new arrangements for the management of Hudaydah port and city, as well as an agreement for the resumption of government salary payments and the preservation of essential government services in all areas of Yemen. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates once more the importance of placing

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the port of Hudaydah under international supervision in order to prevent the smuggling of weapons to the Houthis, in violation of the arms embargo established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), and to prevent the use of Hudaydah port as a launch pad for terrorist attacks to threaten international maritime trade routes.

My delegation requests that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

	Vessel name	*Time and date of entry into anchoring zone outside Hudaydah port*	*Length of detention by the Houthi militias (days)*	*Type and quantity of shipment (tons)*
1	*Volante*	0906 hours — 26 March 2018	27	Diesel — 16 299
2	*Bahia Damas*	0242 hours — 29 March 2018	24	Diesel — 8 932 Petrol — 14 611
3	*Liana*	0448 hours — 4 January 2018	22	Diesel — 8 993
4	*Delia*	0430 hours — 4 April 2018	19	Petrol — 10 275
5	*Queen Reem*	1300 hours — 6 April 2018	17	Diesel — 8 215
6	*Selene*	0648 hours — 8 April 2018	15	Petrol — 13 000
7	*Liaki Freedom*	0042 hours — 8 April 2018	15	Petrol — 9 563
8	*Carpe Diem-2*	1815 hours — 11 April 2018	12	Diesel — 21 015
9	*Lady Asra*	0942 hours — 12 April 2018	11	Petrol — 4 720
10	*Amira Tes Star*	1236 hours — 13 April 2018	10	Diesel — 25 942
11	*Beta Tank-M*	1000 hours — 13 April 2018	10	Diesel — 5 000
12	*Vale*	1718 hours — 14 April 2018	9	Petrol — 15 431
13	*Motivator*	1654 hours — 17 April 2018	6	Diesel — 11 487
14	*Omair*	1930 hours — 18 April 2018	5	Petrol — 9 458
15	*Folk Elegant*	0406 hours — 19 April 2018	4	Petrol — 12 164
16	*Trans Ocean*	0115 hours — 19 April 2018	4	Petrol — 4 983
17	*M B Gladiator*	2106 hours — 20 April 2018	3	Wheat — 26 970
18	*Ariana*	2218 hours — 21 April 2018	2	Diesel — 13 001
19	*Celanova*			Gas — 3 667

United Nations S/2018/385

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 May 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 24 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fiftieth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (S/2018/369).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regrets that the authors of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continue to take a politicized, negative and hostile approach to the Syrian Arab Republic and institutions.

The report under consideration is the fiftieth presented to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolutions concerning the humanitarian situation in Syria, and dozens of briefing have been given in conjunction with those reports. All of those reports and briefings have politicized the humanitarian situation in an unacceptable manner, as the following points clearly and undeniably demonstrate:

- The authors of the fiftieth report clearly show themselves to be in the service of certain influential States that, in order to advance their selfish agendas, spare no effort to exploit United Nations mechanisms according to their whims and in keeping with their desire to exercise hegemony over other States, interfere in their internal affairs and undermine their security and stability. For example, the authors ignore undeniable crimes of aggression simply because they were committed by the United States and its allies. The authors also ignore the war crimes and crimes against humanity that the United States and its allies have committed in Raqqah and other Syrian cities under the pretext of countering terrorism, and they pay no attention to the role played by the Governments of States that support terrorism, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey. Those States continue to promote violence and terrorism, spread extremist ideology and hatred, and employ distorted religious doctrine to wage savage wars that clearly had their beginnings in the 1970s and are raging today with direct support from influential Western States in the Security Council and funding from their puppet regimes. In fact, terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters have now become the greatest threats to international peace and security thanks to the support of Western States that are permanent members of the Security Council and supposedly responsible for maintaining international security and peace under the Charter of the United Nations.

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Some Secretariat and OCHA officials have continued to engage in such conduct, in flagrant violation of Article 100, paragraph 1, of the Charter, which provides that "[i]n the performance of their duties [...] the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization."

- Certain States members of the Security Council view the reports on the humanitarian situation in Syria and the related briefings given by senior Secretariat officials as simply a tool that they can use to serve their agendas, level false accusations against the Syrian Government and obscure the great assistance and facilitation that Syrian State institutions provide to the United Nations and other governmental and non-governmental international organizations, in order to serve and meet the needs and strengthen the resilience of Syrians and increase their capacity to overcome the effects of the crisis. Those States continue to commit aggressions under various spurious pretexts and impose unilateral coercive economic measures against the Syrian people, measures that the United Nations has reaffirmed year after year as being unlawful and in violation of international law, the Charter and human rights principles. All of this became apparent on 14 April 2018 when the United States, the United Kingdom and France carried out their most recent tripartite attack on Syria, an attack that was justified by spurious pretexts and not sanctioned by the Security Council or a resolution of the Council. In that connection, we cannot fail to mention the American attack against the Sha'irat airbase last year.

- Over the past seven years, some United Nations staff have committed many irregularities that, in addition to being completely incompatible with the principles on humanitarian work that were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/182, violate the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic, the unity and territorial integrity of which the Security Council has reaffirmed must be respected in its resolutions on the situation in Syria. For example, the United Nations recently began to rely on illegal information-gathering operations. These transborder operations were begun surreptitiously by the offices of the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration in Gaziantep and Amman, which exploited needy Syrians and, through fraud and deception, employed them in illegal information-gathering activities that are tantamount to unlawful acts of espionage. As a result, those individuals, whom the United Nations calls key informants and whose numbers run into the hundreds, are liable to prosecution and the consequences thereof. Meanwhile, the authors of Secretariat and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports continue to take false information provided by so-called non-State armed groups and their supporters, and by the White Helmets and other such organizations, which are the creations of intelligence agencies, and present it as substantiated information. On the other hand, some United Nations officials say that they cannot verify the information that they receive from the Syrian Government! How is it possible to build trust and enhance humanitarian cooperation in the face of such a politicized and hostile approach that is contrary to international law, the precepts of the Charter and United Nations resolutions?

The lack of professionalism and credibility has exceeded all acceptable bounds, as demonstrated by the authors' decision to suppress the report of the United Nations mission to assess the situation in Raqqah. The authors simply make a general reference to the report and take wording from it and present it in a very distorted manner, but they ignore what the report has to say about the catastrophic situation in

Raqqah and how its residents are suffering as a result of the serious crimes that the international coalition and its allied militias have committed.

In the light of the above, the Syrian Government reiterates its previous observations regarding the reports of the Secretariat on the humanitarian situation. It is disappointed that it must once again state that, despite the promises made by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock, the OCHA office in Syria and those in charge of it are not fulfilling their mandate in a professional, objective and credible manner. That is also true of OHCHR staff, who, for example, did not document any abuses that were committed during the Turkish aggression against Afrin and other regions, the crimes committed by the "international coalition" against Syrian civilians and infrastructure, or the crimes committed by armed terrorist groups, which only recently launched thousands of missiles at Syrian cities and civilian-populated areas.

We are aware that the facts that have come to light in those parts of Syria that have been liberated, or in which a reconciliation agreement has been concluded, and are now administered by the State offer the strongest proof of what we have stated repeatedly: the terrorists use civilians as human shields, seize humanitarian assistance, including food, medical supplies and other types of assistance, and respond with savagery to anyone who opposes them. That notwithstanding, we should like to remind the authors of the following:

- The Syrian State, its institutions and its national and international partners, in cooperation with international organizations, have made tremendous efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of eastern Ghutah who were liberated from the terrorists, and to provide them with health care, water and sanitation, education and shelter. In that connection, it should be noted that the Syrian Government has provided the required facilitation to United Nations organizations, including granting entry visas for nearly all United Nations officials, with the exception of those associated with OCHA because of the politicization and negative approach that characterizes its work.

- Although the authors state that only five convoys reached their destinations in the reporting period, they fail to mention that some areas designated by the United Nations as besieged or hard-to-reach had been liberated, or had concluded reconciliation agreements. Those developments have significantly reduced the number of areas on the list of besieged or hard-to-reach areas and greatly facilitated humanitarian access to those areas, including several parts of eastern Ghutah, and opened the door wide for the United Nations to do its part. However, the Syrian State and humanitarian workers once again find themselves faced with a situation in which international donors are backing out of their commitments and pressure is being placed on the United Nations to stop providing assistance to those areas, because they are now under "Syrian State control". This situation reveals the extent of the manipulation, the insincerity of the statements of concern about the Syrian people that have been made, and the discrimination that is being practiced in respect of Syrians on grounds that are completely unrelated to humanitarian needs. Syria holds OCHA, in particular, responsible for the lack of agreement on the annual response plan, because it has deliberately violated the rules of the United Nations and its agencies, and prioritized political goals that are incompatible with humanitarian action.

- The Syrian Government reiterates that it rejects any use of chemical weapons and that it has fulfilled its obligations in that regard. It also reiterates that it utterly rejects the allegations and lies that, unfortunately, have been fabricated by States members of the Security Council and propagated by their terrorist proxies, with a view to prolonging the crisis and legitimizing acts of aggression

that constitute flagrant violations of international law and the principles and provisions of the Charter. It is unacceptable for the authors of United Nations reports or Organization officials to accept or disseminate these allegations when the Syrian Government has asked for a fact-finding mission to be dispatched and provided all the facilitation that the mission needs to carry out its work.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic hopes that United Nations will adopt a new approach, one that will reaffirm the role that was envisioned for the Organization by the framers of the Charter and the founders of the United Nations, restore the credibility, professionalism and impartiality of the Organization, enhance cooperation and coordination with the Syrian State, help meet the humanitarian needs of Syrians, combat terrorism and preserve the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Syria calls upon the Security Council to review its resolutions concerning the humanitarian situation in Syria and address the flaws therein, including the questions of cross-border operations and the unconstructive work of OCHA, particularly in Gaziantep, which costs much money and ties up capacity. Indeed, the only purpose of that work is to serve the goals of the States that are fighting Syria. The Syrian Government also believes that it is necessary to consider what purpose is served by these monthly reports, which do not reflect the reality of the situation on the ground and have become something of a monthly ritual of justifying acts of terrorism and defending the perpetrators by proclaiming slogans that lack all credibility.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/386

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to bring to your attention the fact that the Houthi militias are holding 19 oil tankers (see annex) carrying around 200,000 tons of oil derivatives in the anchoring zone outside Hudaydah port and are preventing those oil tankers from entering the port to offload. The Houthi militias are delaying the admission of the oil tankers because they are carrying imports by companies that are not affiliated with the militias. They are also delaying the admission of oil derivatives in order to reduce supply in the market and increase the price in all areas under their control.

Since 2014, the Houthi militias have been using Hudaydah port as an instrument of war against the Yemeni people, as well as a source of financing to prolong the war. The port is also being used to smuggle Iranian weapons and missiles into Yemen in order to use them to target Yemeni and Saudi cities.

This incident, like many before, proves that the Houthi militias are irresponsible and unqualified to operate such an important port.

I would therefore like to re-emphasize the urgent need to have United Nations supervision of Hudaydah port to ensure the timely, impartial and unhindered access of goods, in order to mitigate the humanitarian suffering of the Yemeni people.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled H. **Alyemany**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

List of vessels held outside Hudaydah port as at 23 April 2018

No.	*Vessel name*	*Time and date of entry into the anchoring zone*	*Length of detention by Houthi militias (days)*	*Type and quantity of shipment (tons)*
1	*Volante*	0906 hours — 26 March 2018	27	Diesel — 16 299
2	*Bahia Damas*	0242 hours — 29 March 2018	24	Diesel — 8 932/ Petrol — 14 611
3	*Liana*	0448 hours — 4 January 2018	22	Diesel — 8 993
4	*Delia*	0430 hours — 4 April 2018	19	Petrol — 10 275
5	*Queen Reem*	1300 hours — 6 April 2018	17	Diesel — 8 215
6	*Selene*	0648 hours — 8 April 2018	15	Petrol — 13 000
7	*Liaki Freedom*	0042 hours — 8 April 2018	15	Petrol — 9 563
8	*Carpe Diem-2*	1815 hours — 11 April 2018	12	Diesel — 21 015
9	*Lady Asra*	0942 hours — 12 April 2018	11	Petrol — 4 720
10	*Amira Tes Star*	1236 hours — 13 April 2018	10	Diesel — 25 942
11	*Beta Tank-M*	1000 hours — 13 April 2018	10	Diesel — 5 000
12	*Vale*	1718 hours — 14 April 2018	9	Petrol — 15 431
13	*Motivator*	1654 hours — 17 April 2018	6	Diesel — 11 487
14	*Omair*	1930 hours — 18 April 2018	5	Petrol — 9 458
15	*Folk Elegant*	0406 hours — 19 April 2018	4	Petrol — 12 164
16	*Trans Ocean*	0115 hours — 19 April 2018	4	Petrol — 4 983
17	*MB Gladiator*	2106 hours — 20 April 2018	3	Wheat — 26 970
18	*Ariana*	2218 hours — 21 April 2018	2	Diesel — 13 001
19	*Celanova*			Gas — 3 667

United Nations S/2018/387

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 April 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 24 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following the previous letters that I have addressed to you regarding the repeated and continuing terrorist attacks committed by armed terrorist groups against civilians in the city of Damascus and its suburbs, and upon instructions from my Government, I would like to inform you that, on 20 and 21 April 2018, those terrorist groups targeted residential neighbourhoods in Damascus with 14 rocket-propelled grenades, killing two civilians and wounding eight others, in addition to causing serious damage to public and private property and infrastructure.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-06605 (E) 300418

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United Nations S/2018/388

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 April 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 24 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information bulletin dated 24 April 2018 from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 24 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (24 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: four in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: two in Homs, one in Dar'a and one in Idlib.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,792 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,533.16 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 97 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 78,529 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,508.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/389

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 April 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2018 and requested me to report every 60 days on its implementation. The report provides an update on and analysis of the conflict, the political situation and the operational environment in Darfur, and the main challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate, including violations of the status-of-forces agreement, for the period from 16 February to 15 April 2018. It also presents the steps taken by UNAMID towards achieving its benchmarks and provides an update on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of the UNAMID (S/2017/437).

II. Conflict analysis

2. The security situation remains generally stable with the dry season coming to an end. Intermittent and low-scale skirmishes have taken place in the Jebel Marra area between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW). Government forces have also clashed with militias. Although intercommunal violence has decreased significantly, disputes over land ownership continue. The stalemate in the Darfur peace process persists while international pressure on the armed movements increases. The implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur remains constrained.

Fighting between government forces and armed groups

3. While the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) and the Gibril Ibrahim faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM-Gibril) remained largely inactive in Darfur, the Sudanese military progressively conducted small-scale operations in areas previously controlled by SLA-AW in the Jebel Marra area. The level of reported casualties and the low intensity of clashes indicate that there were no large-scale confrontations. On 10 March, SLA-AW elements attacked a Sudanese military camp in Jawa, approximately 7 km south-west of Deribat, and the following day ambushed a military convoy near Bumuye, about 8 km north-east of Deribat. The two clashes reportedly left five soldiers and three SLA-AW fighters dead and several

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civilians injured. In response, the Sudanese military deployed between 17 and 19 March in a search operation in the Layba, Feina and Funguli areas in East Jebel Marra, where they were attacked by SLA-AW on 21 and 22 March. Reports on the number of casualties conflict but the Sudanese military repelled the attacks and captured one SLA-AW commander. Three civilians were killed. On 26 March, intermittent exchanges of fire between the Sudanese military, supported by the Border Guards, and SLA-AW reportedly continued in Gubbo, Gur Lambung and Gulobei, south-east of Jebel Marra. As a result, some displaced persons moved to Kidingir. On 28 March, clashes also took place in Sabun and Khormaley, east of Jebel Marra. The number of casualties is unknown and an unspecified number of local residents fled to the mountains seeking safety. Clashes also took place in Katur, East Jebel Marra, on 1 April, resulting in one person killed, one injured and 73 houses burned down. There are also reports of militias carrying out attacks on 4 April in the Feina area, where some 16 villages were destroyed and civilians killed. The arrival of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the same day put a stop to the attacks.

4. Following an incident on 12 March, in which SLA-AW rustled camels from Nawaiba nomads, the latter exchanged fire with the armed group and the following day burned down the village of Durgo, from where the population reportedly fled to Boori, Dar al-Salam and Golo. Three civilians were reportedly killed in those incidents and two Nawaiba tribesmen were also reportedly killed by SLA-AW cadres in the village on 17 March.

5. Government forces strengthened their control over other areas in Darfur. On 1 March, RSF captured the commander of Sudan Liberation Army-Historical Leadership (SLA-Historical Leadership), Suleiman Marjane, along with two other fighters in a vehicle with four assault rifles, near the Jebel Isa area in North Darfur. In the same area, on 20 March, RSF personnel captured suspected JEM-Gibril elements coming from Libya. Furthermore, on 19 March, the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, extended the unilateral ceasefire announced by the Government in all areas of operations until 30 June 2018.

Militias

6. Tensions persist in the area around Kabkabiyah, North Darfur, following the stand-off between RSF and Northern Rizeigat militiamen, who joined forces with Musa Hilal in November 2017. On 27 February, RSF elements clashed with militiamen in Misteriya, 30 km south-west of the UNAMID team site in Kabkabiyah. One woman was killed and ten civilians were injured in the shooting incident as they attempted to protect a local leader. RSF informed UNAMID that the incident took place while it was implementing a weapons collection campaign.

Intercommunal conflicts

7. The number of intercommunal clashes decreased significantly during the reporting period, with two clashes reported. On 12 February, Zaghawa herders from Chad clashed with Misseriya nomads over cattle rustling in the village of Milaibiday, 20 km north-east of Masteri, West Darfur. The incident resulted in nine fatalities among the Sudanese nomads. On 8 April, the Awlad Zaid and Zaghawa communities clashed over a cattle theft incident in the Kirkir area, 85 km north-west of El Geneina, resulting in one fatality on each side. On both occasions, the government of West Darfur intervened through the deployment of the Sudan-Chad Joint Forces to create a buffer between the two groups. Intercommunal violence has decreased mainly owing to interventions by the Government, the native administration, UNAMID and the United Nations country team. Local communities consider that the weapons collection campaign has contributed considerably to the mitigation of intercommunal

violence, although concerns remain that the nomadic groups have not been equally disarmed.

Violence against civilians and human rights violations

8. The overall human rights situation remained precarious but the number of cases of human rights violations and abuses decreased compared with the previous reporting period. UNAMID documented 77 new cases involving 203 victims, including 22 children, compared with 84 cases involving 192 victims. Violations of the right to life accounted for 15 cases involving 32 victims, and violations of the right to physical integrity accounted for 34 cases involving 70 victims. There were 21 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, in the form of rape and attempted rape, involving 27 victims, including 21 children (with one male minor), and 5 cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention involving 72 victims. There was also one case of abduction and another of disappearance, each involving one victim.

9. UNAMID confirmed 51 cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 148 victims but could not verify the remaining 26 cases, involving 55 victims, owing to such factors as lack of access to former UNAMID team sites. Twenty-seven of the reported cases, involving 120 victims, were reportedly perpetrated by government security forces and auxiliary groups, including RSF and the Border Guards. Thirteen cases involving 13 victims were reportedly perpetrated by unknown and unidentified civilians and the remaining 37 cases, with 70 victims, were allegedly perpetrated by unidentified armed men. Investigations were reportedly initiated in only 40 documented cases and resulted in seven arrests, highlighting concerns about the inefficiency of law enforcement and prosecutorial services in some areas.

10. Internally displaced persons were targeted in 88 crime-related incidents, which led to seven fatalities. Other civilians were affected by 144 crime-related incidents resulting in 46 fatalities, including cases of murder (21), armed robbery (16), attempted robbery (2), assault and harassment (42), burglary and break-in (8), abduction (4), arson (4), shooting (25), attack or ambush (1), threat of violence (2), livestock theft (18) and other (1). In the previous reporting period, internally displaced persons and other civilians were affected by 68 and 92 crime-related incidents respectively, resulting in the deaths of 5 internally displaced persons and 17 other civilians.

III. Political situation

11. During the reporting period, President Al-Bashir effected changes in the leadership of key security institutions. On 11 February, he reappointed Salah Abdallah Mohamed Saleh as Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Services, replacing Mohammed Atta Al Moula, who had served in the position since 2009. On 27 February, the President appointed Lieutenant General Kamal Abdelmarouf as Commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces and announced other promotions and appointments in the military.

12. On 2 April, the President announced in the National Assembly the Government's intention to launch an inclusive consultation for the drafting and finalization of a permanent constitution. He called upon all political stakeholders, including civil society and armed movements, to participate in the consultations, which he described as the second phase of the national dialogue. He stated that the draft constitution would be submitted to a popular referendum. On 10 April, he issued a decree releasing all political detainees in the country.

13. Against a backdrop of economic hardship, demonstrations against austerity measures continued during the reporting period, mostly in Khartoum, resulting in further arrests of protestors, including opposition activists. Subsequently, concerns were raised over arbitrary arrests and the detention of protestors in degrading conditions, including the denial of access to legal representation and family members for detainees. On 18 February, the President ordered the release of political detainees arrested during the protests against the 2018 national budget and subsequent inflation; 80 of an estimated 411 detainees were freed. More arrests of political activists, including senior leaders of the Sudanese Communist Party, were reported.

14. As the austerity measures continued to have an adverse impact on the socioeconomic environment, with inflation surging at more than 50 per cent and the Sudanese pound weakened against the United States dollar, the Government intensified efforts to find a more effective solution to the crisis. In March, the United Arab Emirates injected $1.4 billion into the country's central bank to address the foreign exchange crisis.

15. From 13 to 17 March, the opposition Sudan Call, including the Darfur armed movements, met in Paris to adopt a joint position on the review of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel roadmap. It renewed its rejection of the government-led national dialogue process and its outcome. Sudan Call appointed the leader of the National Umma Party, Sadiq al-Mahdi, as Chair of the Leadership Council. On 20 March, the Sudan Liberation Army-Transitional Council (SLA-TC) criticized the meeting as an explicit move to abandon armed resistance. Two days later, the President threatened legal action against any political party that formed an alliance with the armed movements.

16. At the regional level, the Sudan continues to play a constructive role. On 11 March, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, visited the Sudan for meetings with the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ibrahim Ahmed Abd al-Aziz Ghandour. They agreed to establish a joint political consultation committee, which would convene biannually to review the status of their cooperation and other issues of mutual interest. They also discussed the implementation of the Doha Document and the Darfur peace process. The Sudan continues to maintain a position of neutrality with regard to the rift between the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. On 19 March, the President met the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, in Cairo with a view to improving diplomatic relations and security cooperation between the two countries.

IV. Humanitarian situation

17. Humanitarian access continues to improve in Darfur. In the northern Jebel Marra area in Central Darfur, humanitarian actors were able to gain access to villages around Rockero to conduct an inter-agency assessment from 14 to 21 February. Despite those improvements, the Government continued to deny the humanitarian community access to locations in other parts of Jebel Marra, such as Boldong and Kutrum in Central Darfur and Suni, Jawa, Feina, Gurlang Bang, Tarantawra, Sabun El Fagor and Kara in South Darfur.

18. Returns continued during the reporting period, with approximately 2,000 people returning to Yasin, East Darfur, from camps for internally displaced persons in Salam, Kalma, Otash and Sereif, South Darfur, in February. Clashes between the Sudanese military and SLA-AW in East Jebel Marra on 10 and 11 March reportedly led to the displacement of some people from Feina, who gathered in the Goroland, Bani, Korenga, Tima and Golo areas. As a result of the fighting, some humanitarian activities, in particular relating to the delivery of water, hygiene and sanitation, and

food security and livelihood packages, have been suspended temporarily in Deribat, Kidingir, Jawa, Belle Sereif and Layba.

19. Food insecurity continues to be a major source of concern, in particular in North Darfur. The situation has been compounded by poor rainfall in 2017, which resulted in shortages of pasture and water for livestock and a poor harvest. Based on the latest Famine Early Warning System Network outlook, parts of North Darfur, as well as internally displaced person camps in Jebel Marra, are likely to face a situation of crisis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification level 3) until September. During the peak of the lean season (June–September), internally displaced persons in Jebel Marra could face a situation of emergency (level 4) food insecurity. The situation is further compounded by the austerity measures recently imposed by the Government, which have resulted in significant price increases (up to 47 per cent in January) for staple foods such as wheat and sorghum. In February, the retail price of sorghum rose by more than 15 per cent in seven states. The highest increases, of at 34, 25 and 16 per cent, respectively, were recorded in East, West and North Darfur. Recent assessments indicate that about 98 per cent of displaced households do not have sufficient income to afford the food that they need. The macroeconomic trend could result in more price rises and further reduce the ability of poor households to pay for food.

20. The acute watery diarrhoea outbreak that began in 2016 had subsided by January 2018. However, 461 new cases, including three deaths, were recorded in Central Darfur between 9 February and 26 March, mainly in areas of Jebel Marra under SLA-AW control. Humanitarian partners, in collaboration with the Government, continued their efforts to contain the disease through training of health-care staff, case management, vector control, water quality control, the distribution of medicine and medical supplies, and hygiene and health promotion. Because of the difficulty in gaining access to the affected areas, available data on the seriousness of the situation are limited. Nevertheless, efforts to reach communities continue.

V. Operating environment

Attacks and threats of attack targeting African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, United Nations and humanitarian personnel

21. During the reporting period, 29 criminal incidents targeting United Nations and humanitarian personnel were reported, compared with 26 in the previous reporting period. On 24 February, an RSF member physically assaulted and injured a UNAMID national staff member inside the RSF base in Mellit, North Darfur. The staff member had been detained because he had waved at a speeding RSF driver to slow down while crossing the road. Upon release after about three hours in detention, the injured staff member was treated in hospital in Mellit and, later, at the UNAMID level II hospital in El Fasher.

Access restrictions

22. UNAMID recorded three clearance denials by military intelligence, resulting in the cancellation of six sorties. In a positive development, the Wali of Central Darfur approved regular flights from Zalingei to Golo. However, the Government continued to deny the mission's request for direct flights between team sites in different sectors and permission to use El Obeid airport for flight-planning purposes as an alternative airport for UNAMID aircraft. In relation to the recent fighting in East Jebel Marra, movement to Feina was restricted on three occasions, on 25 March, 3 April and 9 April. Access to Katur was denied on 4 April but later allowed on 9 April. There was also one case of restriction of movement in East Darfur on 22 February.

Visas and customs clearance

23. The Government granted 431 visas for UNAMID staff, including 20 for military personnel, 49 for police personnel, 39 for official visitors, 42 for contractors, 5 for dependants and 4 for civilian staff members. A total of 431 visa requests are being processed, while 232 visa requests have been pending beyond the normal approval period of 15 days, some since April 2016. They include 113 for contractors, 24 for police, 14 for civilian staff, 46 for military personnel, 11 for United Nations Volunteers, 23 for official visitors and 1 for a consultant. For the Human Rights Section, 1 visa application remains pending, while 13 visa requests pending for more than a year have been withdrawn. Owing to reassignment and separation of staff, the vacancy rate for the Section increased to 46 per cent from 32 per cent in the previous reporting period, while the overall vacancy rate for the mission's international civilian staff decreased from 17 to 6 per cent, half of which is owing to pending visas.

24. The Government continues to release food ration containers from Port Sudan. Progress has been recorded in clearing other shipments but 35 shipments of contingent and United Nations-owned equipment are still pending, 1 since 2015. UNAMID continued to hold monthly technical-level meetings with government officials in an effort to address pending issues. The Government informed UNAMID in February that it would receive a communication detailing new procedures in place of the tax exemption certificate. However, the mission is yet to receive it.

25. From 7 to 10 April, my Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui, conducted a joint visit to Sudan. On 8 April, they attended a meeting of the Tripartite Mechanism between representatives of the African Union, the United Nations and the Government in Khartoum to discuss operational and strategic issues relating to the implementation of the mission's mandate. Improvements in that regarded were noted and the Government reaffirmed its commitment to continuing cooperation with UNAMID on all issues referred to at the technical level. They also met the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ghandour, and then travelled to El Fasher, Darfur, to meet UNAMID leadership and staff, the Wali of North Darfur State and community representatives.

VI. Progress towards the achievement of the strategic objectives of the mission

Protection of civilians

26. Across Darfur, there was an overall decrease during the reporting period in the number of incidents relating to the protection of civilians, including the harassment of internally displaced persons and members of other vulnerable groups during livelihood activities and with regard to access to farmland. The freedom of movement of civilians has also improved, mainly as a result of the government-led weapons collection campaign. However, the persistence of cases of harassment and intimidation of internally displaced persons during their livelihood activities, such as the collection of firewood and grass, and the occupation of villages by armed groups and nomads continue to be sources of concern.

27. UNAMID integrated field protection teams conducted 84 missions in North (46), Central (1), South (5) and West (32) Darfur. In North Darfur, they visited locations in Umm Barru, Korma, Sortony and Tawilah, where, although the situation was found to be calm, internally displaced persons expressed concern about the activities of Sudan Liberation Army-Peace and Development (SLA-PD) elements and

nomads in the Sortony area. Two internally displaced Fur people from Sortony were killed in separate incidents in February, allegedly by nomads.

28. In Central, South and West Darfur, the teams were informed of similar protection challenges, mainly in the vicinity of internally displaced persons villages and camps. Local residents in South Darfur complained about the lack of basic services, including the slow response by the Sudanese police to protection incidents involving civilians. In Golo and Rockero, Central Darfur, the local population complained not only about the gaps in basics services but also about sexual and gender-based violence, the presence of a significant number of unaccompanied children, the danger posed by unexploded ordnance, the destruction of homes and crops, allegedly by nomads, and the absence of rule of law and justice institutions in most villages in Jebel Marra. In West Darfur, local communities reported issues relating to land occupation and the harassment and physical assault of women and girls engaged in livelihood activities.

29. The uniformed personnel of UNAMID provided 180 round-trip escorts for humanitarian partners in support of the delivery and monitoring of humanitarian assistance, inter-agency and verification assessments, the distribution and monitoring of food and non-food items and operational activities. In addition, UNAMID continued to provide daily escorts to humanitarian partners transporting water from Kube to Sortony in North Darfur as part of water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives. UNAMID also provided regular armed escorts for the transportation of humanitarian supplies between Sortony and Kabkabiyah in North Darfur. Under special arrangements with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNAMID escorted two WFP convoys of 31 trucks delivering 283 tons of food in North Darfur.

30. The UNAMID military component conducted 5,512 patrols, of which 2,173 were for the protection of civilians (1,406 short-range patrols, 135 long-range patrols and 632 night patrols) and 3,339 for the protection of UNAMID personnel and equipment (2,774 routine patrols, 460 logistics and administrative escorts and 105 humanitarian escorts). In total, 1,017 visits to villages and 934 visits to internally displaced persons camps were carried out. UNAMID police personnel conducted 2,544 patrols, including 958 confidence-building patrols to internally displaced persons camps, 213 firewood- and grass-collecting patrols, 136 market patrols, 697 village patrols, 434 town patrols, 46 area of return patrols and 60 commercial route patrols, to respond to the security needs of internally displaced persons, in particular women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside their camps. Those patrols contributed to the monitoring of security and provided a safe and protective environment in camps for internally displaced persons, including through the collection of information for the mission's early warning system. Furthermore, 289 security coordination meetings, with the participation of the Sudanese police, UNAMID police personnel, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives of internally displaced persons and community leaders, were held in all five states of Darfur. At those meetings, communities were encouraged to support the implementation of community policing initiatives and enhanced safety and security in internally displaced persons camps.

31. During the reporting period, UNAMID formed police units provided 46 escorts for humanitarian agencies (WFP, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund) to the Kalma, Dali, Argo and Otash internally displaced persons camps, Tawilah and Zalingei. The escorts enabled those teams to obtain first-hand information on the needs of internally displaced persons and facilitated the provision of humanitarian assistance to people in need.

32. Training courses on community policing, human rights and computer skills, involving 235 internally displaced persons and community police volunteers, were held across the five states of Darfur. The aim of the courses was to foster participants' awareness of the importance of reporting incidents relating to the protection of civilians to the Sudanese police. The mission is working on a policy framework on institutional capacity-building for the Sudanese police.

33. Explosive ordnance remained a threat in Darfur. In six reported incidents, three minors were killed and four other people, including a woman, were injured. The incidents occurred at a cattle market in El Fasher in North Darfur, Layba in East Jebel Marra, South Darfur, the Alsaayia area of Ed Daein in East Darfur, and Rockero and Fanga in Central Darfur. UNAMID mine action teams conducted explosive hazard assessment and disposal operations in eight villages in North and South Darfur, including at the site for the temporary operating base in Golo. As a result, 2,898 items of unexploded ordnance and 24,492 rounds of expired ammunition were destroyed. UNAMID conducted risk-awareness training that benefited 27,126 individuals: 6,908 men, 6,678 women, 5,661 boys and 7,879 girls. On 28 February, UNAMID and the National Mine Action Centre organized a public event in Kuraynik, West Darfur, which marked the successful completion of disposal operations in all areas in the locality known to have been contaminated with explosive remnants of war.

34. UNAMID continued to engage with state authorities to address gender-related protection issues, including through capacity-building for local institutions. Approximately 70 medical personnel benefited from training on the clinical management of rape conducted by the mission in Khartoum in February. A workshop on the prevention of sexual exploitation was also held for humanitarian personnel in Ed Daein, East Darfur, on 6 March. In a related development, on 4 March, the authorities in West Darfur initiated the process of formulating legislation on the protection of women. On 26 and 27 March, UNAMID facilitated a global open day on women and peace and security event marking Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in which 100 women delegates from the five states of Darfur participated.

35. Pursuant to its mandate to provide advice and logistical support to strengthen the capacity of rural courts to address community disputes, including land disputes, the mission trained 120 rural court judges on civil and criminal legal proceedings and mediation techniques in North, East, Central and West Darfur during the reporting period. UNAMID, in collaboration with the Sudanese judiciary, published the handbook that it had developed in the previous reporting period on Sudanese law and dispute mediation techniques in Arabic and disseminated 50 copies each to 120 rural court officials in four states of Darfur. Members of the mission also met representatives of the Sudanese prison authorities in West and East Darfur and in Khartoum to discuss the need to address prison conditions. On 27 and 28 February, the mission organized a training programme for 20 journalists in Ed Daein, East Darfur, as part of its continued efforts to build the capacity of local media to contribute to peace in the region.

36. During the reporting period, UNAMID trained 855 personnel (52 women and 803 men), comprising 224 civilian police, 625 military personnel and 6 civilian, on Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, national and international instruments for protecting children, the impact of armed conflict on children and the prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse against children in peacekeeping operations. UNAMID also provided 1,190 people (818 women and 372 men), comprising 20 Sudanese police officers, 25 Sudanese military personnel, 12 staff members from NGOs, 18 media workers and 1,115 internally displaced persons, with training aimed at enhancing local ownership of the protection agenda for children affected by armed conflict. A total of 645 pocket cards were distributed and messages on stickers translated into 12 languages underlining the policy of zero

tolerance of sexual relations with minors. The mission also established four child protection committees in internally displaced persons camps and host communities in North, West and South Darfur, which are expected to play a pivotal role in supporting and facilitating the sharing of information on allegations of violations against children. Furthermore, UNAMID rolled out a campaign entitled "No child soldiers — protect Darfur", aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed forces and militias.

37. During the reporting period, UNAMID, in collaboration with the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission and the United Nations country team, supported the demobilization of 793 former combatants, including 268 women, in Nyala. In addition, the mission, in collaboration with the Darfur Ceasefire Commission, verified 800 ex-combatants belonging to Justice and Equality Movement-Peace Wing, Sudan Liberation Army-Peace Wing and Sudan Liberation Army-Mother Wing (SLA-Mother Wing).

Support for the Darfur peace process and the implementation of the Doha Document

38. The stalemate in the Darfur peace process continued with very little movement by the parties from their entrenched positions. On 20 February, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union issued a communiqué (PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCLIV)) in which it urged the non-signatory Darfur armed movements to engage immediately for peace and reconciliation in Darfur on the basis of the Doha Document and expressing concern that the search for peace in Darfur was "unnecessarily prolonged". The Council called for an update on progress made on peace efforts within the following three months and requested the African Union Commission, pending the outcome of the engagement, by May 2018, to prepare possible measures including, for the first time, sanctions on all those who continued to obstruct efforts towards lasting peace and security in Darfur.

39. The African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, supporting the Co-Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, has maintained contact with the Government and the non-signatory movements. The most recent contact with two of the armed movements, SLA-MM and JEM-Gibril, was at a technical-level meeting on 1 March in Addis Ababa, where the movements reaffirmed their commitment to a negotiated settlement. On 11 March, the Joint Special Representative also met the representatives of the Government and pled for flexibility in the negotiations expected over the next three months. On 2 March, JEM-Gibril accused the Government of frustrating the peace process and the Peace and Security Council of siding with one of the parties to the conflict.

40. On 12 February in Nyala, UNAMID officials met representatives of seven signatory movements to Doha Document: SLA-Historical Leadership, the Justice and Equality Movement-Peace Wing, the National Liberation and Justice Party, the Sudan Liberation Army-Free Will, the Justice and Equality Movement-Dabajo, the Sudan Liberation Army-Mustafa Terab and SLA-Mother Wing. They expressed their concern about delays in the implementation of the Doha Document, in particular the security arrangements.

41. On 25 March, UNAMID, the East Darfur judiciary and Ed Daein University facilitated the first of nine workshops on the policy on the right to land restitution adopted by the legislative council of East Darfur in June 2017 for implementation during 2018. The workshops are directed at raising the awareness of the key stakeholders, in particular returnees and internally displaced persons, of the state's land policy and the specific provisions in support of voluntary returns. There were

60 participants, including 13 women, who recommended that the Government enforce the rule of law and appealed for the political will to enable effective solutions.

Mediation of intercommunal violence

42. UNAMID pursued mediation initiatives at the community level. On 18 February, the mission, in collaboration with the government of South Darfur, established a joint stabilization mechanism comprising the mission, the state government, the United Nations country team and international and national NGOs in South Darfur. The mechanism will support the implementation of the state's stabilization plan for the period 2018–2019.

43. The mission is also monitoring state government initiatives related to the settlement of the internally displaced. Twelve meetings were held with local authorities and community leaders in Central, East, West and North Darfur in support of the inclusive and sustainable implementation of those initiatives. In Central Darfur, UNAMID was informed by the Commissioner for Nomads Development on 27 February of plans to relocate some nomadic groups from the northern area of Nertiti to Khor Ramla, 8 km west of Nertiti.

44. On 4, 5 and 7 March, UNAMID officials met representatives of the internally displaced population, the state government and the native administration in East Darfur to gauge the available options to internally displaced persons. The majority prefer to return to their villages of origin once security and basic services have been provided but some prefer to remain where they are, provided that they have access to basic amenities and maintain ownership of their traditional lands. The state government has established two committees to facilitate their smooth return, one focusing on proof of land ownership and registration and the other on conducting a 45-day awareness-raising campaign on the government return strategy.

VII. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic review

Implementation of phase one and preparations for phase two

45. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), the implementation of phase two of the reconfiguration of UNAMID is on track. On 13 February, the Chinese engineering company was deployed to help with establishing the temporary operating base in Golo, while the Pakistani engineering company is improving the associated road infrastructure on the segment from Kabkabiyah to Golo. The military component is realigning its administrative offices, entailing the closure of three of its sector headquarters in North, East and West Darfur and the establishment of the State Stabilization Assistance Force, based in Nyala, on 28 February. The Force will be responsible for the areas outside the area of operations of the Jebel Marra task force. In addition, the Senegalese and Rwandan infantry battalions were repatriated on 26 February and 17 March, respectively.

46. UNAMID police are deployed in 9 out of 10 task force team sites: Kabkabiyah, Sortony, Shangil Tobaya, Tawilah, Kass, Menawashei, Khor Abeche, Zalingei and Nertiti. The police component has also adopted a revised concept of operations and established coordination structures to ensure liaison, coordination and reporting of task force activities. Moreover, the deployment of formed police units to designated team sites from where the military has withdrawn began on 1 March as follows: the Jordanian unit from Kabkabiyah to Saraf Omra, the Djiboutian unit from Tawilah to Kweima, the Senegalese unit from El Geneina to Sereif and the Nepalese unit from Nyala to Masteri. By 30 March, all the team sites were fully operational. As at

7 March, the UNAMID police component strength stood at 2,560 (1,002 individual police officers and 1,559 members of formed police units) personnel. That total is expected to be reduced to the required strength under phase two of 2,500 by the end of June 2018.

47. By 9 April, UNAMID officials had visited 8 of the 11 team sites closed as part of the phase one reconfiguration (Tulus and Edd al-Fursan in South Darfur, Abu Shuk, Zamzam and Um Kaddadah in North Darfur, Muhajiriyah in East Darfur, and Foro Burunga and Habila in West Darfur) and obtained information from local sources concerning the situation in the other three sites, Al-Malihah, Tine and Mellit (North Darfur). Overall, the withdrawal of UNAMID from those areas has had no adverse impact.

Joint fundraising strategy for sustaining peace in Darfur

48. UNAMID and the United Nations country team finalized a joint financing approach for sustaining peace in Darfur. Taking into account lessons learned from past experience, the approach envisages the political engagement of the United Nations system and Member States in support of the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in order to reduce the likelihood of relapse into conflict. Options include programmatic funding in peacekeeping budgets as a transitional measure during the drawdown and voluntary contributions.

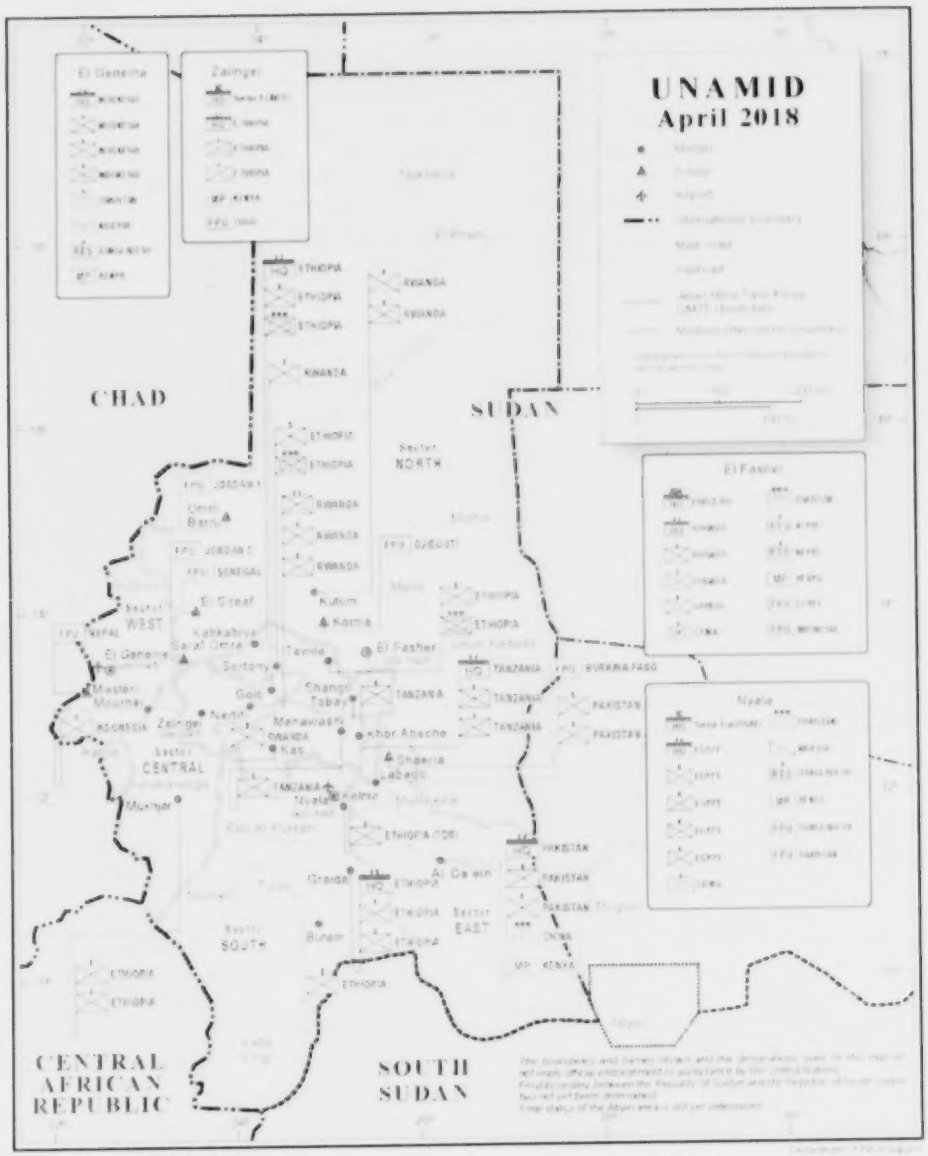
VIII. Observations

49. While encouraged by the positive developments in terms of security, I am concerned that they are not matched by commensurate progress in the peace process and implementation of the Doha Document. I reiterate my call upon the parties concerned to commit themselves to a cessation of hostilities and direct negotiations and for them to recognize that only a peaceful political settlement can guarantee the people of Darfur durable peace and development. In that regard, I commend the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, supported by the Joint Special Representative, on its unflagging efforts to bring the parties to the negotiation table.

50. The comprehensive implementation of the Doha Document, in particular its provisions on issues at the heart of the conflict, such as disputes over land and other natural resources and their consequences, remains critical to achieving long-term solutions for the Darfuris. I call upon the Government and the affected population to engage constructively in the implementation of those provisions.

51. I am pleased by the significant progress made in reconfiguring UNAMID. In this regard, I welcome the operationalization of the Jebel Marra task force and the beginning of works to establish the temporary operating base in Golo. I should also like to reiterate my appreciation to the Government for its continued cooperation. It remains imperative, however, that the mission be guaranteed access throughout Darfur.

52. In conclusion, I should like to thank the Joint Special Representative, Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, and all the personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations country team and the humanitarian community who continue to work tirelessly to improve the lives of the people of Darfur. I also commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, and the former Presidents of South Africa and Nigeria, Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki and Abdulsalami Abubakar, of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, for their steadfast commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the Sudan.


UNAMID
April 2018
CHAD
SUDAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SOUTH SUDAN
Sector NORTH
Sector WEST
Sector CENTRAL
Sector SOUTH
Sector EAST
El Geneina
Zalingei
El Fasher
Nyala
Kutum
Kornia
Tawila
Saraf Omra
Kabkabiya
Sortony
Shangil Tobay
Muhajeriya
Menawashei
Khor Abeche
Shaeria
Labado
Kas
Nertiti
Mukjar
Graida
Al Da ein
Buram
Kalma
Umm Baro
El Sireaf
Mastero
Mourney
Aggressia
Zalingei
ETHIOPIA
RWANDA
TANZANIA
PAKISTAN
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DJIBOUTI
SENEGAL
NEPAL
JORDAN

United Nations S/2018/390

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 April 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Côte d'Ivoire on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 24 April 2018 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire stating that Mr. Alcide Ilahiri Djédjé has been appointed alternate representative of Côte d'Ivoire on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-06783 (E) 300418

Please recycle

United Nations S/2018/391

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 26 April 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the letter dated 29 March 2018 from Ambassador Karel J. G. van Oosterom, I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have agreed to send a mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar from 28 April to 2 May 2018. The members of the Council have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission, which are annexed hereto (see annex).

I will be leading the mission with Ambassador Mansour Alotaibi (Kuwait) and Ambassador Karen Pierce (United Kingdom).

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission will be as follows:

Ambassador Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz (Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Ambassador Wu Haitao (China)
Ambassador Anatolio Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea)
Ambassador Tekeda Alemu (Ethiopia)
Ms. Anne Gueguen (France)
Ambassador Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan)
Ambassador Mansour Alotaibi (Kuwait)
Ambassador Lise Gregoire Van Haaren (Netherlands)
Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra (Peru)
Ambassador Joanna Wronecka (Poland)
Mr. Dmitry Polyanskiy (Russian Federation)
Ambassador Olof Skoog (Sweden)
Ambassador Karen Pierce (United Kingdom)
Ambassador Kelley Eckels-Currie (United States)

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
President of the Security Council

18-06696 (E) 260418

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Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council Mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar

Terms of reference

1. The Security Council will carry out its mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar from 28 April to 2 May 2018. The mission will include visits to Dhaka, refugee camps near Cox's Bazar, Nay Pyi Taw and areas in northern Rakhine State that were affected by the violence that occurred after 25 August 2017. The mission will be co-led by the United Kingdom, Peru and Kuwait.

2. The objectives of the mission are as follows:

(a) To urge full implementation of the Security Council presidential statement of 6 November 2017 (S/PRST/2017/22);

(b) To assess the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh, the United Nations and other agencies to provide protection and assistance to refugees in Bangladesh;

(c) To assess the efforts of the Government of Myanmar to implement the Security Council presidential statement of 6 November 2017 and the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, as well as the situation in Rakhine State;

(d) To understand the views and concerns of all parties, including but not limited to members of the Rohingya refugee community in Bangladesh and the Rohingya, Rakhine and other communities in Rakhine State, regarding:

(i) The violence that occurred in Rakhine after 25 August 2017;

(ii) The provision of protection and assistance to refugees in Bangladesh;

(iii) The creation of conditions allowing for the safe, voluntary, sustainable and dignified repatriation of refugees, including Rohingya and other minorities, to their places of origin in Rakhine;

(iv) Efforts to address the root causes of the crisis in Rakhine State, including through implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, which is chaired by Kofi Annan.

3. The mission will seek to achieve these objectives through meetings with:

(a) Representatives of the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar and members of their parliaments;

(b) Representatives of the United Nations in Bangladesh and Myanmar, including representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(c) Members of the Rohingya refugee community, including women and children. Where appropriate, the Security Council will seek to meet survivors of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, that has occurred in Rakhine since 25 August 2017;

(d) Members of the Bangladeshi host communities in Bangladesh, including women and children;

(e) Representatives of the Rakhine State government;

(f) Members of the Rohingya, Rakhine and other communities in Rakhine State, including women and children;

(g) Representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and regional governments in Nay Pyi Taw;

(h) Representatives of civil society in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

4. The Security Council will be accompanied by representatives of the press and media.

5. The mission will seek to implement lessons learned from previous Security Council missions.

United Nations S/2018/392

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 April 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following the previous letters that I have addressed to you regarding the repeated and continuing terrorist attacks committed by armed terrorist groups against civilians in the city of Damascus and its suburbs, and upon instructions from my Government, I would like to inform you that, on 22 April 2018, those terrorist groups targeted residential neighbourhoods in Damascus with 10 rocket-propelled grenades, killing 2 civilians and wounding 12 others, in addition to causing serious damage to public and private property and infrastructure.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-06705 (E) 270418

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United Nations S/2018/393

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 April 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith a table clarifying the number of civilians killed and injured as a result of terrorist attacks, including those involving mortar shells and explosive devices, committed by armed terrorist groups against safe neighbourhoods in different Syrian cities and areas during the period from 22 March to 21 April 2018.

Governorate	*Number of civilians killed*	*Number of children killed among them*	*Number of civilians injured*	*Number of children injured among them*
Aleppo	8	5	20	2
Damascus	28	8	154	52
Dar'a	4	–	9	5
Dayr al-Zawr	–	–	3	1
Hama	15	2	16	11
Hasakah	1	–	–	–
Homs	2	1	28	6
Idlib	–	–	–	–
Ladhiqiyah	–	–	–	–
Qunaytirah	–	–	1	–
Raqqah	–	–	–	–
Rif Dimashq	2	–	9	2
Suwayda'	–	–	2	–
Tartus	–	–	1	1
Total	**60**	**16**	**243**	**80**

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-06709 (E) 270418

Please recycle

United Nations S/2018/394

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 April 2018

Original: English

United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling and *reaffirming* all its previous resolutions on Western Sahara,

Reaffirming its strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to implement resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014), 2218 (2015), 2285 (2016), and 2351 (2017),

Expressing full support for the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Horst Köhler of Germany, and *welcoming* the engagement of the parties and neighboring states with him in his efforts to facilitate negotiations,

Reaffirming its commitment to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and *noting* the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect,

Reiterating its call upon the parties and the neighboring states to cooperate more fully with the United Nations and with each other and to strengthen their involvement and to achieve progress towards a political solution,

Recognizing that achieving a political solution to this long-standing dispute and enhanced cooperation between the Member States of the Maghreb Arab Union would contribute to stability and security, in turn leading to jobs, growth and opportunities for all the peoples in the Sahel region,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations, including the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), under close review and reiterating the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments, and effective management of resources,

Recalling its request of the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, is used to improve analytics and the evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks, *emphasizing* the need to regularly evaluate MINURSO's performance such that the mission retains the skills and flexibility needed to effectively carry out its mandate, and *noting*, in this regard, plans for an independent review of the mission later in the year,

18-06794 (E) 300418

Please recycle

Recalling resolution 2242 (2015) and its aspiration to increase the number of women in military and police contingents of United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing the important role played by MINURSO on the ground and the need for it to fully implement its mandate, including its role in supporting the Personal Envoy to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution,

Expressing concern about the violations of existing agreements, and *calling on* the parties to respect their relevant obligations, and refrain from any actions that could destabilize the situation or threaten the UN process, and *recognizing* the measured response of Morocco to most recent concerns regarding the buffer strip,

Taking note of the Moroccan proposal presented on 11 April 2007 to the Secretary-General and *welcoming* serious and credible Moroccan efforts to move the process forward towards resolution; also *taking note* of the Polisario Front proposal presented 10 April 2007 to the Secretary-General,

Encouraging in this context, the parties to demonstrate further political will towards a solution including by expanding upon their discussion of each other's proposals and recommitting to UN efforts in a spirit of realism and compromise, and further *encouraging* the neighboring countries to make contributions to the political process,

Taking note of the four rounds of negotiations held under the auspices of the Secretary-General and *recognizing* the importance of the parties committing to advance the negotiations process without preconditions and in good faith,

Encouraging the parties to cooperate further with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in identifying and implementing confidence-building measures that can serve to foster the trust necessary for a successful political process,

Stressing the importance of improving the human rights situation in Western Sahara and the Tindouf camps, and *encouraging* the parties to work with the international community to develop and implement independent and credible measures to ensure full respect for human rights, bearing in mind their relevant obligations under international law,

Encouraging the parties to continue in their respective efforts to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Western Sahara and the Tindouf refugee camps, including the freedoms of expression and association,

Welcoming in this regard, steps and initiatives taken by Morocco, and the role played by the National Council on Human Rights Commissions operating in Dakhla and Laayoune, and Morocco's interaction with Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council,

Strongly encouraging enhancing cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including through facilitating visits to the region,

Noting with deep concern the continued hardships faced by Sahrawi refugees and their dependency on external humanitarian assistance, and *further noting* insufficient funding for those living in Tindouf refugee camps and the risks associated with the reduction of food assistance,

Reiterating its request for consideration of a refugee registration in the Tindouf refugee camps and *emphasizing* efforts be made in this regard,

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 2250 and related resolutions; *stressing* the importance of a commitment by the parties to

continue the process of negotiations through the United Nations-sponsored talks and *encouraging* the full, effective and meaningful participation of women and active and meaningful participation of youth in these talks,

Recognizing that the status quo is not acceptable, and *noting further* that progress in negotiations is essential in order to improve the quality of life of the people of Western Sahara in all its aspects,

Welcoming the appointment of Colin Stewart as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of MINURSO and *affirming* its full support for him in this capacity,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 29 March 2018 (S/2018/277),

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MINURSO until 31 October 2018;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to make progress toward a realistic, practicable and enduring political solution to the question of Western Sahara based on compromise and the importance of aligning the strategic focus of MINURSO and orienting resources of the United Nations to this end;

3. *Calls upon* the parties to resume negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account the efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments with a view to achieving a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect;

4. *Further calls upon* the neighboring states to make important contributions to the political process and to increase their engagement in the negotiating process;

5. *Invites* Member States to lend appropriate assistance to these talks;

6. *Reaffirms* the need for full respect of the military agreements reached with MINURSO with regard to the ceasefire and *calls on* the parties to adhere fully to those agreements;

7. *Expresses concern* with the presence of the Polisario Front in the buffer strip in Guerguerat and *calls for* its immediate withdrawal;

8. *Expresses concern* regarding the Polisario Front's announcement of the planned relocation of administrative functions to Bir Lahlou, and *calls for* the Polisario Front to refrain from any such destabilizing actions;

9. *Recognizes* that fundamental questions related to the ceasefire and related agreements remain and *calls upon* the Secretary-General to interview the parties in an effort to better understand these issues;

10. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of MINURSO, including its free interaction with all interlocutors, and to take the necessary steps to ensure the security of as well as unhindered movement and immediate access for the United Nations and associated personnel in carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of a renewed commitment by the parties to advancing the political process in preparation for a fifth round of negotiations, *recalls* its endorsement of the recommendation in the report of 14 April 2008 (S/2008/251) that realism and a spirit of compromise by the parties are essential to achieve progress in negotiations, and *encourages* the neighboring countries to make important contributions to this process;

12. *Calls upon* the parties to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to resume negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014), 2218 (2015), 2285 (2016), and 2351 (2017) and the success of negotiations;

13. *Affirms* its full support for the intention of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in this context to relaunch the negotiations with a new dynamic and a new spirit with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Security Council on a regular basis, and at any time he deems appropriate during the mandate period, on the status and progress of these negotiations under his auspices, on the implementation of this resolution, challenges to MINURSO's operations and steps taken to address them, *expresses its intention* to meet to receive and discuss his briefings and in this regard, *further requests* the Secretary-General to provide a report on the situation in Western Sahara well before the end of the mandate period;

15. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping, and calls on him to continue his efforts to develop an integrated performance policy framework and apply it to MINURSO, *requests* the Secretary-General to seek to increase the number of women in MINURSO, as well as to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of operations;

16. *Urges* MINURSO to continue to consider how new technologies can be used to reduce risk, improve force protection, and better implement its mandate;

17. *Encourages* the parties to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to identify and implement confidence-building measures, including to engage women and youth, and *encourages* neighboring states to support these efforts;

18. *Urges* Member States to provide new and additional voluntary contributions to fund food programmes to ensure that the humanitarian needs of refugees are adequately addressed and avoid reductions in food rations;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance in MINURSO with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including predeployment awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

20. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations A/72/846–S/2018/395

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 May 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda items 34, 72 (c) and 74

Prevention of armed conflict

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the International Court of Justice

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the request for the International Court of Justice to interpret its provisional measures order against the Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 72 (c) and 74, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-06966 (E) 070518

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the request for the International Court of Justice to interpret its provisional measures order against the Russian Federation

Ukraine asks the International Court of Justice ("ICJ") to provide a definitive interpretation of the ICJ's Order that was issued one year ago imposing provisional measures on the Russian Federation. Relevant request of 19 April 2018 was delivered today to the ICJ.

In 2017, Ukraine initiated a case against the Russian Federation to hold it accountable for sponsoring acts of terrorism and engaging in racial discrimination in the course of its unlawful aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine requested provisional measures from the ICJ in light of the urgency of the situation, and one year ago, on 19 April 2017, the Court issued an historic decision granting Ukraine's request. The decision required Russia, among other things, to "refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to preserve its representative institutions, including the Mejlis".

Despite the clear meaning of this Order, an entire year has passed and Russia continues to maintain its ban of the Mejlis. It is now apparent that Russia does not consider that it must suspend its discriminatory ban on the Mejlis under the language of the ICJ's Order. Ukraine fundamentally disagrees; the language of the Order is clear and requires the ban to be lifted immediately. Ukraine is therefore asking the ICJ to exercise its judicial authority to confirm that Russia is obligated to suspend the ban on the Mejlis under the Court's provisional measures order.

In addition to addressing Russia's treatment of the Mejlis, the ICJ's Order of provisional measures required Russia to "ensure the availability of education in the Ukrainian language", and called on the parties not to take action aggravating the disputes before the Court, which encompass both discrimination in Crimea and support for terrorism in eastern Ukraine. Ukraine remains deeply concerned by Russia's approach to every aspect of the ICJ's provisional measures order.

With today's action, Ukraine reiterates that Russia is not above the law. The international community must insist that Russia abide by international law, including the binding rulings of the International Court of Justice.

United Nations S/2018/396

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 May 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period of 25 and 26 April 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-07109 (E) 040518 070518

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Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (25 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire: five in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported five incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: two in Aleppo, one in Dar'a, one in Homs and one in Idlib.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Khazinah, Aleppo Governorate: 445 food parcels containing rice, sugar and canned meat were distributed. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 1.9 tons.

In total, 1,793 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,535.06 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 86 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 78,615 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,508.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (26 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported three incidents of gunfire: two in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: two in Hama, one in Homs and one in Idlib.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

Two United Nations humanitarian convoys were assured passage to Tall Shihab and Tayyibah in Dar'a Governorate. The total amount of cargo w[illegible] 214 tons.

In total, 1,793 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,535.06 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 114 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 78,729 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,508.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations A/72/848–S/2018/397

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 May 2018
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 99 (l)
General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information on the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99 (l), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. Nebenzia

* The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.

18-07171 (E) 070518 090518

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Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Destruction of Syria's chemical weapons

The Syrian Arab Republic had one of the most advanced chemical industries in the Middle East in terms of both civilian and military production. Chemical weapons capability had strategic importance for Damascus in the context of long-standing tensions with Israel.

Since 2011, the US has been making threats against Syria at various levels and without any serious reason, claiming that some kind of a red line would be crossed if Damascus used chemical weapons, which would prompt military action against Syria.

There were no confirmed cases of the Syrian government using chemical weapons during this period. At the same time, chemical weapon attacks committed by various anti-government forces, including terrorist groups supported by the US and its allies, were happening with increased frequency.

On March 19, 2013, makeshift projectiles containing sarin nerve agent were used by rebel fighters in Khan al-Assal near Aleppo, killing 28 people, including 17 Syrian servicemen, while more than 130 people suffered wounds of varying severity.

Damascus immediately took the required steps to launch the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons. Due to the position adopted by the US, France and the United Kingdom, the UN Security Council delayed the decision for several months. UN experts led by Ake Sellstrom, a Swedish professor, finally arrived in Syria on August 14, 2013.

On August 21, 2013, when Ake Sellstrom's team was in Eastern Ghouta, a Damascus suburb, opposition fighters carried out another large provocation involving sarin. The exact number of those killed or hurt in the attack has not been determined to this day (about 1,500 people according to the US).

Seeking to prevent a looming foreign intervention in the intra-Syrian conflict, the President of Russia Vladimir Putin suggested that Syria accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) as soon as possible which would entail an obligation for the country to report to the international community its chemical stockpiles with a view to eliminating them.

Russia and the United States reached a framework agreement to this effect during talks in Geneva on September 14, 2013, followed by a decision of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and UN Security Council Resolution 2118. A plan of unprecedented scale and nature was devised to remove the main components of chemical weapons from Syrian territory and destroy them.

The Russian Federation made a substantial contribution to preparing the operation to remove the precursors of chemical weapons from Syria. On very short notice, Russia sent more than 130 armoured Ural, Kamaz trucks and BTR-80 personnel carriers along with other equipment (kitchen trucks, tents, etc.) that were needed for ensuring that chemicals were safely removed from Syria. In addition, Russia contributed $2 million to a UN special trust fund for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. At the same time, the West declined, under far-fetched pretexts, to participate in the effort of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to supply Syria with the equipment it needed. Instead, the West narrowed its

contribution to buying used and worn-out trailers in Lebanon, and at least half of them never made it to Syria due to their poor technical condition.

On December 27, 2013, Moscow hosted consultations between China, Syria, Denmark, Norway, the US, the OPCW and the OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria, which was established on October 16, 2013 and was chaired by Special Coordinator and Representative of Secretary-General Sigrid Kaag. The OPCW-UN Joint Mission was closed on October 1, 2014.

The parties coordinated a plan to ensure the safety of the marine route for chemical weapons removal, under which a centre was established on the Russian cruiser Pyotr Veliky to coordinate the interaction of all the vessels involved throughout the operation. The Russian cruiser Pyotr Veliky and Chinese frigate Yancheng protected the convoy of vessels carrying chemical weapons in Syria's territorial waters, beyond which the Dutch frigate Ark Futura and Norwegian frigate Taiko took over.

The international operation to remove the components and precursors of chemical weapons from Syria was completed on June 23, 2014. In all, 1,200 tonnes of toxic agents have been removed from Syria and 100 tonnes of isopropanol, a less toxic agent, were destroyed on the ground.

The destruction of Syrian chemical weapons began on July 7, 2014 aboard the specialised US Maritime Vessel Cape Ray, and was completed on August 18, 2014. The effluents, or reaction mass, resulting from hydrolysis were later utilised at industrial facilities in Finland and Germany, and their precursors, including methylphosphonyl difluoride (DF) that is used for the production of sarin, were destroyed in Britain and the US. It is notable that while destroying part of these precursors on Cape Ray, the Americans had full access to the formula and the production technology of Syria's sarin. Moreover, when Syria joined the OPCW in 2013, the Syrian government submitted detailed information on its sarin production methods to the OPCW. Therefore, the traces of DF in the sarin that was used during the April 4, 2017 attack in Khan Sheikhoun cannot indicate without a doubt that the attack was staged by the Syrian government army.

Syria carried out an unprecedented operation, the first ever in the OPCW's history, removing chemical weapons from its territory with assistance from Russia and other countries in a record-short period of time — six months — and in the extremely complicated conditions of fighting international terrorism. The destruction of these weapons was organised outside Syria and was completed by the end of 2015, with nearly a year-long delay due to problems at Veolia, the US firm contracted by the OPCW to dispose of part of the Syrian chemical weapons stockpiles.

In other words, Syrian chemical weapons stockpiles were destroyed completely exclusively thanks to the goodwill and commitment of the Syrian government, with active contribution from all the OPCW member states and under strict control by the OPCW. Director-General of the OPCW Ahmet Uzumcu officially announced the completion of the destruction of declared Syrian chemical weapons on January 4, 2016. At this moment, 27 Syrian chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) had been destroyed. The destruction of 25 of them has been verified by the OPCW.

At the same time, a Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) was established in April 2014 at the insistence of the Western countries to verify if Syria's declaration of its chemical weapons and facilities required by Article III of the CWC was accurate and complete. In 2016, Damascus subjected the verification of several laboratories at research centres in Barza and Jamraya to the OPCW in keeping with Articles III and VI of the CWC.

The OPCW's Technical Secretariat still believes that the Syrian authorities have not declared all of their chemical weapons facilities, which the Western countries are using to accuse Damascus of CWC violations.

In fact, changes in the initial declaration to the OPCW are a routine practice which many CWC member states have made use of.

The unprecedented decision that was taken on Syria at the 83rd session of the OPCW Executive Council exceeds the CWC's legal framework and stipulates, in part, unencumbered access to Syrian military facilities. The two inspections conducted under this decision at the research centres in Barza and Jamraya have not revealed any evidence of undeclared activity.

In April 2014, a Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) was also established to investigate the possible use of toxic chemicals in Syria.

A trend has emerged recently to narrow down the FFM's mandate to establishing whether chemical weapons were used in various incidents, while the mission's leadership does not view identifying how the weapons were used or collecting physical evidence that could help identify the perpetrators as part of its mandate.

This has led to the emergence of a misguided practice whereby alleged chemical weapons incidents that violate OPCW standards are investigated remotely without any presence on the ground. No samples are collected, while the choice of "witnesses" and "victims" who provide accounts of the events is questionable. Investigations consist of "analysing" unverified reports from the Syrian opposition, as well as NGOs affiliated with the militants like the White Helmets, who receive funding from Great Britain and the US.

Created in 2015 under UN Security Council Resolution 2235, the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) has operated in a similar fashion. It was designed to identify the perpetrators of the crimes in question, including using data provided by the FFM, and submit its conclusions to the UN Security Council.

The JIM released seven reports. Its latest report, dated October 26, 2017, lays the responsibility for the alleged April 4, 2017 sarin attack in Khan Shaykhun on the Syrian Air Force, while ISIS is blamed for the September 16, 2016 mustard gas attack in Maarat Umm Hawsh. At the same time, JIM investigators did not bother to visit the sites of the alleged chemical attacks, citing security concerns, while the so-called physical evidence and witness accounts were provided to the FFM by armed opposition groups. In this situation, the investigation could hardly be viewed as unbiased or impartial.

According to the Director of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), an agreement was reached with field commanders to provide OPCW inspectors safe access to Khan Shaykhun. However, neither the FFM representatives, nor JIM investigators went to the site of the alleged incident.

The Western countries refused to adjust the JIM mandate in order to expand its geography and emphasise its counter-terrorist aspect. The draft UN Security Council resolution sponsored by Russia, together with China and Bolivia, to ensure that the JIM mandate is consistent with OPCW standards, was also blocked. The JIM lapsed in November 2017.

Against the backdrop of the JIM reports and the persisting Western attempts to question the initial filings by Damascus under the CWC, the US and its allies are conducting an aggressive campaign at the UNSC and the OPCW to impose punitive decisions on Damascus.

On January 23, 2018, Russia submitted a draft resolution at the UN Security Council on the creation on a new investigative body that would be legitimate and, even more importantly, totally impartial and highly professional. However, the Western members of the UN Security Council vehemently oppose Russia's initiative. In its counter projects, the US takes into consideration only a small portion of Russia's ideas, reducing the initiative to re-creating the JIM with all its shortcomings.

The threat of chemical terrorism remains real not only Syria, but also in Iraq and the Middle East in general. Militants are using toxic agents with increased frequency. Moreover, they already possess the technical and manufacturing capabilities to produce warfare chemicals in their own right, and established far-reaching supply channels to access precursors. There is no hiding that the militants count within their ranks former officers from Middle Eastern countries who used to work on chemical weapons programmes in Iraq (under Saddam Hussein), Libya (under Muammar Gaddafi) and Syria (before its accession to the CWC). Even representatives of the US-led coalition have reported many times on the discovery of underground ISIS workshops for making chemical weapons.

Over the past three years, Russia has repeatedly proposed adopting a UN Security Council resolution or at least a statement by the UN Security Council President condemning acts of chemical terrorism in Syria and Iraq. Unfortunately, all Russia's proposals to this effect invariably encountered stiff opposition from a number of Western countries, who preferred to insist on their groundless accusations against the alleged use of chemical weapons by Bashar al-Assad's legitimate government. In doing so, the Western countries give a sense of impunity to the militants encouraging them to use chemical weapons.

United Nations S/2018/398

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 26 April 2018 from the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am pleased to provide my first report, as the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, on the results of the eighty-fourth session of the Council, which was held in Geneva on 25 April 2018. The full text of the conclusions adopted by the Council, together with additional documentation, is attached.* I would, however, like to highlight a few matters discussed during the session.

During the opening plenary meeting, delegations from Iraq, including a delegation from the Committee of Financial Experts, which is responsible for the oversight of Iraq's oil revenues, and from Kuwait's Public Authority for the Assessment of Compensation, addressed the Council.

The Governing Council considered reports related to the work of the Commission since its previous session. The Council welcomed the resumption of deposits to the Compensation Fund in January 2018, in accordance with decision 276 (2017), and the maintenance of the pre-2015 arrangements for the transfer of funds from the Government of Iraq to the Fund. The Council also welcomed the recent payment of $90 million towards the one remaining claim with an outstanding award balance. This is the first payment to have been made since October 2014. In this regard, it is recalled that due to the extraordinarily difficult security circumstances in Iraq and the unusual budgetary challenges associated with confronting the issue, the Governing Council had granted the Government of Iraq three successive one-year postponements of its deposit obligations. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of Iraq for its continued commitment to complying with relevant Security Council resolutions and Governing Council decisions.

To date, the Commission has paid out $47.9 billion, leaving approximately $4.5 billion to be paid to the only outstanding claim submitted by the Government of the State of Kuwait on behalf of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. That claim was awarded $14.7 billion in 2000 for losses in oil production and sales as a result of damage to Kuwait's oil field assets. It represents the largest award granted by the Commission.

The next session of the Governing Council has been tentatively scheduled for 7 November 2018.

(*Signed*) Zbigniew **Czech**
President of the Governing Council

* Not included in present document.

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